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**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PHOENIX, ARIZONA MAN CONVICTED FOR USING  
THE INTERNET TO ATTEMPT TO COERCE A MINOR  
FEMALE TO ENGAGE IN UNLAWFUL SEXUAL ACTIVITY**

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that TRAVIS E. CARLTON, 37, of Phoenix, Arizona pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to one count of using the Internet to attempt to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity. He will be required to register as a sex offender as a result of his conviction.

The case was the result of a joint investigation by the Visalia Police Department and the Fresno office of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys David Gappa and Sheila Oberto, who are prosecuting the case, CARLTON admitted, as part of his plea agreement, that from June 12, 2005 through June 20, 2005 he engaged in multiple online chat sessions, via Yahoo! Messenger, with a minor female and requested that she produce and then transmit to him sexually explicit images of herself. Court documents indicate that CARLTON was in Visalia, California on a business assignment when he communicated with the minor female. He arranged to meet her at El Diamante High School in Visalia and intended to have illegal sexual activity with her. Law enforcement officers became aware of CARLTON'S chats, assumed control of the minor female's Yahoo! account, and arrested CARLTON when he appeared at the agreed upon meeting location.

CARLTON will be sentenced on March 19, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. He faces a prison term of between 5 and 30 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a possible lifetime term of supervised release. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors. He was remanded into federal custody upon pleading guilty today.

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